

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR

RULE DEVELOPMENT

Dry Cleaners Reimbursement: On Wednesday, January 27, the Natural Resources Board (NRB) approved public hearings for NR 169, the new Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program. Five public hearings will be held the weeks of March 15th and March 22nd, times and places to be announced. A summary of the rule will be posted on the RR program web site as soon as possible.

PECFA Interagency Responsibilities: COM 46, PECFA Interagency Responsibilities, was approved by the NRB on January 27th as an emergency rule. Promulgation of this rule by DNR makes the site jurisdiction provisions in COM 46 applicable to DNR.

Landspreading Rule: Revisions to NR 718 are now in effect. The rule is available on the web -

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr718.pdf>

DNR will also develop technical guidance and application forms for landspreading.

NR 140: Revisions to NR 140, Groundwater Quality, are in effect. Users of this code should be sure that they are using the December 1998 version, <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr140.pdf>

NEW RR PROGRAM INFORMATION

New Publications and Staff Contact Lists

The RR program has developed a new publications list. Besides an improved layout and new order form, the publications list also has a handy index to help readers locate publications by 10 subject titles, including brownfields, consultants, dry cleaner information, databases, liability, spills, Superfund, and technical information.

The program also has a new directory of staff contacts. The directory lists staff according to more than 50 program areas, listed alphabetically from "Abandoned Containers" to our new "Web Site." The directory also has several cross-references to help individuals locate a specific staff person according to their area of expertise. Site specific questions should still be directed to the appropriate regional technical person. A county-by-county listing of regional staff contacts is available on the web site.

You can access both the new publications and staff contact lists using our web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr, or to receive copies by mail, call the R&R Information Line (see next item).

New Information Line

The RR program has replaced its Hot Line with a new Information Line. The Information Line provides a short list of options for callers to access a list of program areas, find out about our web site, or learn about what's new in the program. You can also order publications, request our new publications list, or subscribe to the Re-News newsletter. The new Information Line number is 608-264-6020 (for Madison area and out-of-state long distance) or 800-367-6076 (in-state long distance).

BROWNFIELDS STUDY GROUP REPORT

At the request of the Legislature, the department worked with other state agencies and interested citizens to develop a series of proposals to enhance Wisconsin's brownfields program. Brownfields are abandoned or under-used properties with real or perceived contamination. DNR has released a report outlining more than 70 proposals to further promote the cleanup and reuse of an estimated 10,000 contaminated properties across the state.

One of the key proposals in this report is the emphasis on cleaning up the soil and groundwater across many brownfields properties. The report proposes the creation of sustainable urban development zones, where local governments can offer state-sponsored loans, tax credits and other financial incentives across several brownfields sites to help pay for cleanup and promote redevelopment. Other report proposals include:

- creating a \$10 million assessment and cleanup grant program for local governments interested in neighborhood revitalization;
- increasing funding for the state's Brownfields Grant Program from \$5 million per year to \$15 million, and to make the funding permanent;
- clarifying and streamlining the state's solid waste requirements to facilitate redevelopment;
- expanding protections for local governments that involuntarily acquire contaminated property;
- strengthening such existing financial incentives as loans, grants and Tax Incremental Finance (TIFs) Districts;
- creating a new state-wide brownfields tax credit to help pay for clean-up costs;
- creating interim liability protection for private parties in the process of cleaning up sites;
- allowing a more rapid transfer of tax delinquent brownfields properties from counties to cities;
- expanding the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in brownfields redevelopment;
- studying the need for a new brownfields non-profit organization to help local governments and businesses with redevelopment; and
- gathering tangible information for the public on the costs and benefits of redeveloping contaminated property versus developing green space.

The Brownfields Study Group Final Report is available on the RR program web site, or to order a printed copy call 608-264-6020, or 800-367-6076 for in-state long distance calls.

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